



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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February 17, 2015

Dear Chairmen Winfield and Tercyak and distinguished members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with testimony in **Support for HB 5854, An Act Concerning Thanksgiving and Double Overtime Wages.**

I started working in retail in 1988 in Massachusetts when blue laws were still in effect and retail stores were closed on Sundays and major holidays. This schedule was preferable to the hours I had been working at a hospital. Shortly after I was hired, the blue laws were repealed and stores were allowed to open on Sundays. Employees were to work on a voluntary basis. I was put on the Sunday schedule and was told that working on Sundays was a condition of my employment and that my choosing to work there was voluntary. No one was grandfathered in.

The law also stated that employees who worked on Sunday would be paid time and a half. The increase in income would have made working Sundays more desirable, however the employer required the employees who worked on Sunday to take an additional day off during that week.

Soon, retailers started opening on holidays that were previously closed, such as July 4th. Eventually, the only holidays that retail employees could count on stores being closed were Thanksgiving and Christmas. Now, some retailers are opening on Thanksgiving. Given past trends, Christmas will likely be next.

What day can families count on to be together? Family time is important in so many ways. More and more families have to rely on dual incomes. Schedules are more hectic. The Thanksgiving holiday is an opportunity for families to spend quality time together. Their time away for this non-essential work should be adequately compensated.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine Rosati".

Christine Rosati
State Representative
44th Assembly District